

ANNUAL REPORT 1992



THE UNITED STATES
COMMISSION
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
AMERICA'S HERITAGE
ABROAD

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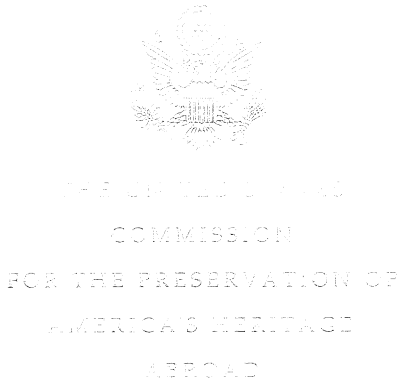
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Cover Photograph
East European immigrants
at Ellis Island. Circa 1910.
National Park Service,
Ellis Island Immigration Museum

All other photographs
by Ruth Gruber.

FOREWORD



The words chiseled on the face of this country's National Archives remain as true today as ever, that "Past is Prologue." It is vital that we and generations to follow can know, see and understand our heritage.

The ravages of World War II and the Holocaust, the years of communist betrayal of their own peoples, religions and cultures, have meant the destruction, deterioration and degradation of historic sites, houses of worship, cemeteries and artifacts.

The President of the United States and Congress recognized that without quick action to save what is left of America's heritage abroad, much would be lost. That heritage has sustained us and has helped make us a great nation.

In 1990, the 21-member United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad became operational.

All twenty-one members are appointed by the President of the United States. One third of the Commission's members are chosen by the President, one third are recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one third by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Commissioners receive no salary or other financial compensation. Federal funding covers the Commission's administrative costs for negotiations, etc.,

but does not cover activities overseas, such as the actual preservation of sites.

The Commission and the U.S. Department of State negotiate agreements for the preservation of endangered monuments, historic buildings, archival material and cemeteries which represent the cultural heritage of Americans. Our focus has been on Eastern and Central Europe, where these precious artifacts are disappearing or deteriorating.

The urgent need for preservation in Europe is clearly illustrated by devastation from World War II and Communist neglect and by recent instances of xenophobia accompanied by sporadic attacks on ethnic minorities and their cultural sites — sites which are of great importance to the heritage of Americans.

So far, agreements for cooperation in protecting cultural sites are being implemented with the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Romania. Negotiations are in progress with republics of the former Soviet Union, Baltic States, Germany and other nations.

The Commission is mandated to “identify and publish a list of...monuments, historic buildings and cemeteries” abroad and to help create counterpart organizations in cooperating countries.

Field work is nearly completed for Poland, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. It is underway in Hungary and starting in Romania.

The Commission receives requests from the public and Members of Congress to intervene on behalf of historical and cultural sites and former concentration camps which are being vandalized or marked for inappropriate commercial exploitation.

Commission actions helped:

prevent construction of a supermarket in Ravensbruck, Germany on the grounds of a former Nazi concentration camp

halt construction of apartments being built over the grave sites in the old Jewish cemetery in Pinsk, Belarus

create an agency to inventory all public cultural sites in Germany's State of Brandenburg...it also will establish a land use process to assure that construction work on former sites of churches, synagogues, concentration camps, cemeteries, etc. respects the past

In 1992, the Associates of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad — a not-for-profit organization — was established to help raise the necessary funds. William F. McSweeney was elected President and a distinguished panel of Americans agreed to serve on the Board of Directors.

The significant successes already achieved by the Commission in the short period since it was formed are the direct result of cooperation and support from the White House, Congress, the Department of State, the Commissioners, Associates and the staff.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Chairman
United States Commission
for the Preservation
of America's Heritage Abroad
January 1, 1993

INTRODUCTION



“Because the fabric of a society is strengthened by visible reminders of the historical roots of the society, it is in the national interest of the United States to encourage the preservation and protection of the monuments, historical buildings, and cemeteries associated with the foreign heritage of American citizens.”

These words are found in the opening lines of the legislation establishing the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

The Commission has made substantial progress in meeting its obligations to identify and publish lists of European monuments, historic buildings and cemeteries in danger of deterioration or destruction and negotiating agreements to preserve sites. However, funds for preservation are required to come from private sector donations.

The recently formed Associates of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad has taken on the task of raising funds from the private sector to support preservation work.

The Associates — a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization — is soliciting donations to underwrite the restoration and preservation of historical monuments, cemeteries and other sites. Monies also are needed to support the inventory of cultural sites in additional countries.

“We seek the support of those whose wisdom comes from the experience of fighting for freedom and who are willing to help us work hard to preserve the memory of the nearly forgotten millions who no longer have a voice in their defense and history.”

William F. McSweeney
President
Associates of the
United States Commission
for the Preservation
of America's Heritage Abroad





The Department of State granted the Commission authority to negotiate proposed Agreements with Poland, Hungary, Germany, Yugoslavia, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and the former Soviet Republics of Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia.

While there tends to be understanding and appreciation for the need to preserve the common heritage of both U.S. citizens and those of the "host" nations, lack of funding for the necessary work is a serious problem.

Issues of property ownership and priorities also complicate negotiations. This is most obvious in countries where unrest, including open warfare, prevails.

Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

In October 1991, bilateral negotiations conducted in Prague by the Department of State and Chairman Schneier culminated in the signing of a protocol of understanding with the Foreign Ministry of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR). They agreed to form a Joint

Cultural Heritage Commission. While in the CSFR, the Chairman represented the United States at the official opening of the Museum of the Ghetto in Terezin, a Holocaust memorial site.

This laid the foundation for the signing of the formal Agreement at the U.S. Department of State on March 17, 1992. High level participation from representatives of both nations in the formal signing ceremony, and support from Prague, denote the importance of the Commission's first Agreement.

Then President Vaclav Havel of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic wrote, "This Agreement...brings together the peoples of both our countries in a shared awareness of the responsibility we have for the heritage of our forefathers, which we must protect regardless of its ethnic, religious or social origins."

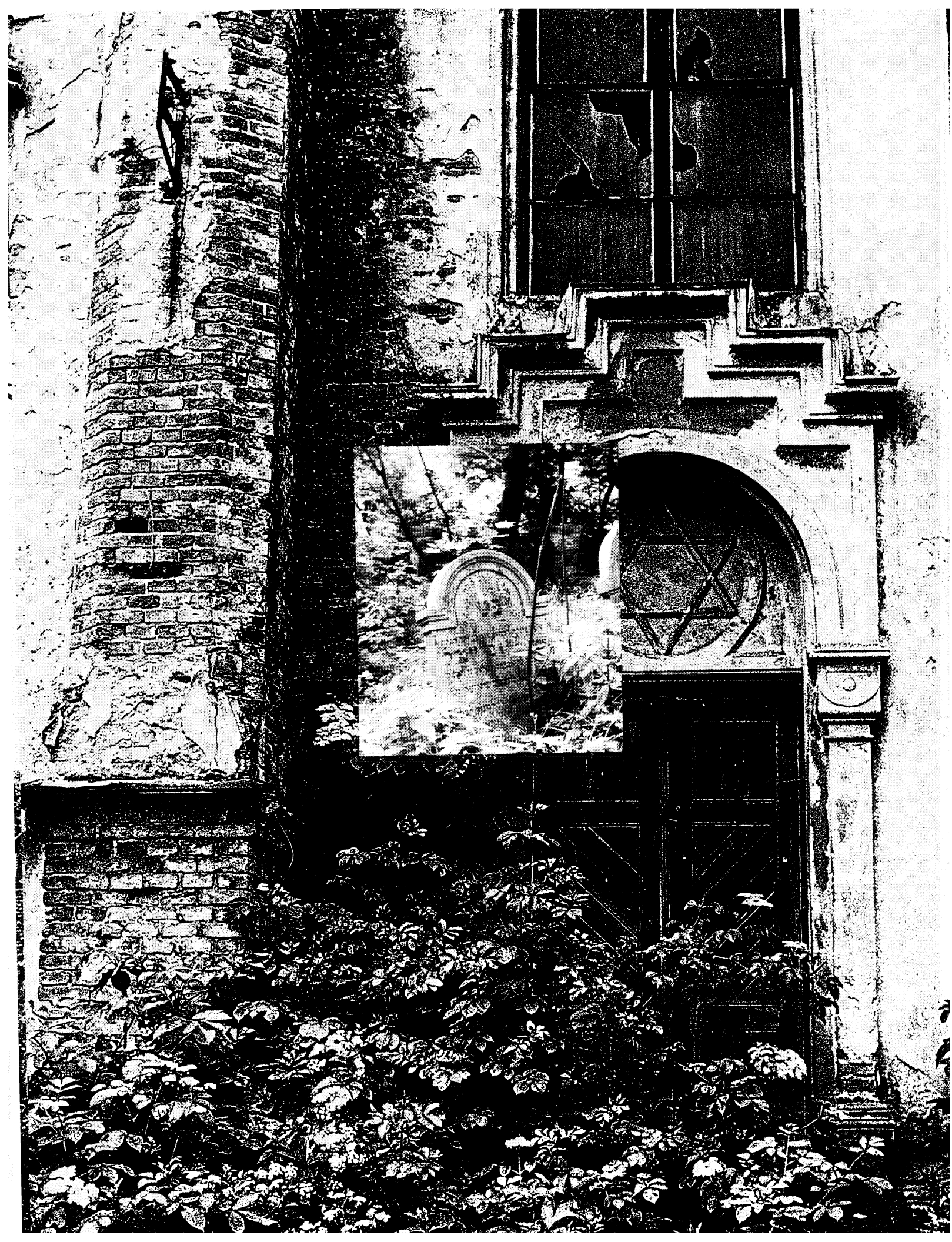
Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State at the time, said at the signing ceremony the Agreement is "a tangible sign of the U.S. commitment to help in the recovery of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic — in this case, in the recovery of the Nation's cultural and religious heritage so long blighted by Fascism and Communism alike...(it is) potentially a monument to historical memory, and a monument to the dangers of nationalism and ethnic hatred run amok."

Czech and Slovak Federal Republic Ambassador Rita Klimova said in her remarks to those present at the signing ceremony, "In the period of transition to a democratic government and a market economy, help and assistance from our U.S. friends in the area of conservation and preservation of cultural properties is not only welcome (but) heartening and politically positive...a signal that the U.S. cares."

Chairman Schneier stated, "This Agreement is a clear signal of the post Communist era. We cannot rebuild what was destroyed, but we can preserve what remains."

The ceremony was witnessed by representative of the Executive Branch, Members of Congress, members of the diplomatic corps, the commissioners, and business executives and other private citizens.

On January 1, 1993 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic became two independent countries — the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic. Both notified the Commission that they will implement the Agreement. The Czech Republic has named as its representatives to the Joint Czech and United States Cultural Heritage Commission Messrs. Jiri Fiedler and Egon Lansky. The United States is represented by Chairman



Schneier, and Commissioners Julius Berman and Israel Rubin.

Romania

Meetings in New York, Washington and Bucharest resulted in a provisional agreement signed by Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase and the Chairman on July 8, 1992. Final details are being worked out by the Department of State, the Commission and the Romanian government.

Concentration Camp Sites

In 1991, concern about the planned commercial use of the former concentration camp at Ravensbruck, Germany, was the focus of a meeting between the Chairman and Manfred Stolpe, Minister President of the Federal State of Brandenburg. Mr. Stolpe agreed to overrule the authorization to proceed with the project.

Mr. Stolpe also established a council to identify and inventory all historic and cultural sites in Brandenburg and review and approve all requests for site usage. This arrangement is reportedly the first of its kind in Germany and is expected to be a model for other areas of the country.

The Nazis and their allies created more than 100 major camps where ethnic, religious, racial and political groups in disfavor were concentrated.

Those not murdered, were forced to endure inhumane conditions intended to cause death from starvation, exposure and forced labor.

Maintenance of the campsites is critical. They serve as a continuing monument of the unthinkable horror of the Holocaust, as a memorial to those who perished and a reminder of man's inhumanity to man.

Commissioner Warren Miller has devoted considerable effort in this regard. He is seeking the Commission's direct

involvement in the preservation of concentration camp sites, for instance, through the placement of Commission representatives on their governing or supervisory boards.

Historic Buildings, Cemeteries and Monuments

The Commission has been called upon to assist a broad spectrum of American groups and individuals concerned about the destruction of cultural sites important to their heritage. While such instances are, unfortunately, too numerous to catalog in this report, a few examples will illustrate the peril to remaining cultural and religious sites and the complexity of their preservation.

Hamburg, Germany

In mid-1991, the Commission received troubling reports about impending commercial development of the former site of a 300-year-old Jewish Cemetery (Ottensen) in Hamburg.

The Commission and U.S. diplomatic officials extended strong representations and reservations. The Chairman talked with German officials, including the Foreign Minister and offered to create a fact-finding mission with the aim of seeking a satisfactory solution. On November 17, 1992 the U.S. Department of State informed the Commission that the

Hamburg "Senat" approved a revised construction plan which will not disturb areas which might contain human remains.

Wroclaw/Breslau, Poland

Early in 1992, a private U.S. citizen active in cultural preservation, asked the Commission for assistance for a preservation project in which he was involved — restoration in Wroclaw/Breslau of a historic house of worship built in the 1820s and an associated old cemetery. A preservation grant had been sought from a newly created "Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation."

The Commission sent a letter to the Foundation endorsing and supporting these efforts. The letter also noted ongoing negotiations with the Polish Government concerning a proposed Agreement to protect and preserve historic cultural sites and stated that the anticipated work in Wroclaw/Breslau is in line with the provisions of the proposed Agreement. Commissioner Chaskel Besser, who has long experience in

preserving cultural sites in Poland, is assisting the Commission's "client" in this effort.

Stryj, Ukraine

The Commission learned of the imminent razing of the remains of Stryj's last standing synagogue from a group of Americans with family roots in Stryj who had organized to raise funds to preserve the site as a memorial to Holocaust victims from this town.

A Commission letter to the Ukrainian Ambassador in Washington and the U.S. Embassy in Kiev asked that the impending demolition be prevented. Commissioners and staff also met with the Ambassador and interested Americans.

Upon learning of U.S. concern for this site and prospects for funding support from Americans with strong family and ethnic ties to the area, the Ambassador promised to send a personal message to appropriate officials in Kiev.

As this is written, the demolition has not occurred. Preliminary efforts to restore the building are underway.

Pinsk, Belarus

Following intervention by the Commission with the Foreign Minister of Belarus and the Mayor of Pinsk, construction of apartment buildings at a former Jewish cemetery in Pinsk was halted.

The Belarus Embassy noted that

building the apartment complex may be within the context of the current law — which allows alternate uses of cemeteries that have not been used for many years. But while it may be "legal", disrupting the graves is not "moral", a Belarus official told U.S. diplomats.

City authorities also pledged to upgrade the condition of the cemetery, and to place a monument to the memory of those who perished in the city as a result of the Holocaust. Commissioner Hertz Frankel represented the Commission in Pinsk on this matter.

Looking to other nations

The Commission is fortunate to have members with vast experience in European cultural preservation, particularly in the region of initial concentration: Europe, eastward to the Urals.

While all Commissioners were chosen for relevant expertise, it is appropriate to note that Eugene Huppin was assigned to help implement the Agreement with Romania. Joseph Halfon helped establish a dialogue with the Government of Bulgaria. Zvi Kestenbaum performed parallel services in Hungary. Gary J. Lavine represented the Commission to the Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as has Dov S. Zakheim in Austria.





CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The commission instituted the first-ever survey of East and Central European cultural sites close to the hearts and heritage of American citizens.

This is the first step in creating a comprehensive clearinghouse of this information which will include data on the location, condition, ownership and use of the sites, relevant preservation laws and a list of organizations involved with documentation and preservation.

Initial work is being carried out in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic. Work will begin in Romania in 1993.

Information already gathered is helping government authorities in these countries, local communities, and Americans with cultural roots in these areas to plan and undertake preservation.

The survey will be expanded to other countries in the near future. Americans seeking data about their heritage have access to the survey results.

The Commission launched an aggressive program to increase visibility and awareness of its activities.

News releases dealing with the survey of cultural sites generated hundreds of inquiries from interested individuals seeking information related to their families' cultural heritage abroad.

The Commission has established relationships with groups representing a cross section of American ethnic communities interested in preservation of the vestiges of their cultural roots in the homelands of their forbears.

For example, as a prelude to the official October 6, 1991 ceremony in Kiev, the Commission was the principal sponsor of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Massacre at Babi-Yar held in New York City on September 15, 1991. Among the co-sponsors was the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

Funds

Since federal funds to support the Commission cover only administrative costs, resources for preservation and restoration work must, properly, be raised from the private sector. Thus, the not-for-

profit Associates of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad was established in early 1992, dedicated to increasing public awareness of the program and providing resources for the Commission's work.

Mr. William F. McSweeney, a retired corporate Chief Executive Officer and civic leader is President of the Associates. They seek support from individuals, corporations and foundations for preservation projects. Tax deductible contributions can be made directly to the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, a U.S. government agency, or to the Associates, a Section 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation.

APPENDIX

assistance for the protection and preservation of cultural properties brings together the peoples of both our countries in a shared awareness of the responsibility we have for the heritage of our forefathers, which we must protect regardless of its ethnic, religious or social origins."

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said at the signing ceremony: *The Agreement is "a tangible sign of the US commitment to help in the recovery of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic — in this case, in the recovery of the nation's cultural and religious heritage so long blighted by Fascism and Communism alike. It is also a means by which our two peoples, so long separated by an artificial political barrier, can resume a rich and historic interchange.... (it is) potentially a monument to historical memory, and a monument to the dangers of nationalism and ethnic hatred run amok."*

Commission In The News

First-Ever Agreement Signed to Preserve Americans' Heritage Abroad

Washington, DC (March 17, 1992) — The first-ever Agreement between the United States and a European nation to preserve monuments, historic buildings, cultural sites and other heritage of importance to the families of emigres to America was signed at the US Department of State today by Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy US Secretary of State, and Rita Klimova, Ambassador to the US from the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

The Agreement, which was negotiated by the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, is the first of similar Agreements to be negotiated with Eastern and Central European countries.

A Joint Cultural Heritage Commission, with members from both nations, will be formed to carry out the provisions of the Agreement. The US Heritage Commission will be the Executive Agent for implementing the Agreement in the United States. A counterpart organization will be formed in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. This is a reciprocal agreement. The Americans will work to preserve Czech and Slovak heritage in the US.

The Agreement provides that "Each Party will take appropriate steps to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of all national, religious or ethnic groups...who reside or resided in its territory and were victims of genocide in its territory during the Second World War. The term 'cultural heritage'...means places of worship, sites of historical significance, monuments, cemeteries and memorials to the dead, as well as archival material."

A message from Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, read at the signing ceremony, said: *"This Agreement of*



Drzewica, central Poland
large home to be restored and used as a museum

Ambassador Rita Klimova from the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic said at the signing: *"In the period of transition to a democratic government and a market economy, help and assistance from our US friends in the area of conservation and preservation of cultural properties is not only welcome, it is at the same time heartening and politically positive, as a signal that the US cares and is willing to be very specific in its interest."*

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Chairman of the US Commission, said: *"Common ancestral roots, cultural heritage and a tradition of democratic values are shared by many of our citizens, and the Czech and Slovak peoples. This Agreement utilizes the past to advance national cooperation and friendship between our nations. It is as clear a signal as is possible of the post Communist era. We cannot rebuild what was destroyed, but we can preserve what remains."*

The ceremony was witnessed by members of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad; the Associates of the US Commission, chaired by William F. McSweeney; officials of the diplomatic community; the US Congress; and the Executive Branch.

A summary of a survey of historic sites, monuments and cemeteries conducted by distinguished Czech and Slovak experts also was released today.

The Heritage Commission is working through its Associates and others to seek private funds to:

arrange assurances from foreign governments that they will take steps to preserve, repair and protect American heritage abroad

identify and publish a list of cultural heritage sites of importance to Americans, particularly those in danger of deterioration or destruction

elevate public awareness of the rich cultural and historic legacy abroad and

report on the conditions of appropriate sites and actions taken to preserve them.

The Commission is seeking written information and photographs from US citizens, of sites in Eastern and Central Europe and the former USSR relevant to its mission.

They should be sent to:

The United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad
Suite 504, 1101 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

US-Romania Sign Agreement Preserving Heritage Important to Americans of Romanian Descent

Washington, DC (July 17, 1992) — The governments of the United States and Romania will create a "joint commission" to help identify, protect and preserve cultural sites and artifacts in both countries associated with the heritage of Americans of Romanian descent.

A provisional agreement signed by Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, Chairman of the US Commission for Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, and Romania's Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase provides for the establishment of a "Joint Cultural Heritage Commission" to implement the terms of the pact. US Ambassador to Romania, John R. Davis, Jr., was among those present at a July 9, Bucharest ceremony marking conclusion of the negotiations.

"Heritage is the soul of a people, and so this is an important milestone in developing the ties of friendship between the Romanian and American people," Foreign Minister Nastase said.

"The United States, a land of immigrants who value their roots, is home to more than 300,000

individuals who can trace their heritage to Romania. This agreement helps preserve the culture which was important to their ancestors and was a significant factor in their contributions to America. We cannot rebuild what was destroyed during World War II and the years of totalitarian government, but we can preserve what remains," Chairman Schneier said.

The provisional accord is second in a series of similar agreements between the US and European countries being negotiated by Chairman Schneier on behalf of the US Commission. Last March, the first agreement was signed with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Places of worship, sites of historical significance, monuments, cemeteries, memorials and archival material will be among the items inventoried and preserved.

The Associates of the US Commission, chaired by William McSweeney, are leading efforts to raise funds to protect and preserve cultural sites covered under the bilateral agreements.

The 21-member Commission was formed by Congress in 1985.

The provisional agreement will enter into force upon the exchange of notes in which the respective governments inform each other about the fulfillment of their constitutional requirements for entering into international agreements.

Apartment Construction Disrupting Grave Sites in Hamburg and Pinsk Halted "Actions Appear to be Positive" as Governments Consider *Morality* as well as *Legality* of Measures, Says Chair of US Commission

Washington, DC (December 2, 1992) — Actions taken in the past two weeks by the governments of Belarus (of the former Soviet Union) and Hamburg, Germany will halt construction of apartment buildings which were about to disrupt grave sites in local Jewish cemeteries.

These measures are more definite than previous "moratoriums" on the construction, said Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Chairman of the United States Commission of the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. "They appear to be a positive indication that officials are considering the morality, not just the legality, of their decisions," he said.

The Commission has been active in both cases. Two weeks ago, Rabbi Hertz Frankel, a US Commissioner from Brooklyn, NY lead a delegation representing agencies interested in preservation of heritage to visit the Mayor of Pinsk (B. M. Timoshchenko, Chairman of the City Soviet) and officials of the national government in Minsk.

Last Friday, the Commission received word from the Belarus Embassy in Washington that

the Foreign Ministry and the Council of Ministers had sent Timoshchenko an "order" dated November 24, to stop all construction on the project.

The Embassy noted that building the apartment complex may be within the context of the current law — which allows alternate uses of cemeteries that have not been used for many years. But, while it may be "legal," disrupting the graves is not moral, a Belarus official told US officials.

"An (earlier) letter from the Embassy of Belarus in the USA regarding my intervention with Foreign Minister H.E. Pyotr K.Kravchanka," Chairman Schneier said, "informed me that the Pinsk government has halted construction to work out the modalities of a definite cessation of construction activities on the site."

City authorities pledged to upgrade the condition of the cemetery, to "define its real and



Bytca, Slovakia.
Dilapidated cultural site.

accurate boundaries...to work for, the preservation of Jewish heritage in the city and its suburbs, of the memory of Jews perished at the hands of fascist invaders." A monument to the Jews killed in the World War II will be erected in Pinsk (and) three memorial plaques to the victims of Nazi atrocities are already unveiled in (the) Pinsk area at the sites of mass Jewish killings, according to the letter.

The Commission acted after receiving calls from Members of Congress who noted constituents' alarm at the construction and alleged desecration of the historic Pinsk cemetery, which "is a legitimate concern of Americans whose ancestors hail from Belarus," the Commission Chairman said.

In Pinsk, the construction is controlled by the government. In Hamburg, where Chairman Schneier earlier held meetings with government officials at the highest level, a private developer

had planned to build apartments on a portion of an old Jewish cemetery.

On November 17, the US Department of State informed Chairman Schneier that the Hamburg "Senat" approved revised architectural drawings which eliminated about one third of the apartments included in the original plan. The current construction design will not disturb areas which might contain human remains, according to the Department of State communique.

The Commission, a federal agency, is negotiating Agreements with European governments to work with US groups, and the Commission itself, to identify and describe buildings and other sites which have cultural significance to American citizens. The Agreements set up procedures for the creation of organizations to work with appropriate authorities in those countries to preserve the sites.

Survivors, Diplomats, Jewish Communal Leaders to Mark 50th Anniversary of Babi-Yar Massacre at September 15 Gathering in New York

New York (August 30, 1991) — On September 29, 1941, at a ravine near Kiev called Babi-Yar, Nazi troops launched a week-long bloodbath that took the lives of more than 200,000 Jews, Ukrainians and others.

On Sunday, September 15, 1991, Jewish community leaders, members of survivor groups and official representatives of Israel, the Soviet Union, the Ukraine and the United States will gather at Manhattan's Park East Synagogue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the massacre.

The observance, which is open to the public, will begin at 11 a.m. The synagogue is located at 163 East 67th Street.

Guest speakers at the commemoration will include:

Yoram Aridor, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations;

Shoshana Cardin, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry;

Thomas Pickering, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations;

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation;

Yuli M. Vorontsov, Deputy Foreign Minister and Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations; and

Anatoli Zlenko, Foreign Minister of the Ukraine.

Sponsors of the gathering include the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, Permanent Mission

of the Ukraine to the United Nations, National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Appeal of Conscience Foundation and the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

The memorial in New York will precede a week-long series of events in Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, Sept. 29 to Oct. 5, commemorating the 1941 tragedy. This will mark the first time that Ukrainian authorities have acknowledged the Jewish identity of most of the victims at Babi-Yar.

Pioneering Pact to Preserve Historic Sites Signed in Prague by US and Czechoslovakia

Prague (October 19, 1991) — The United States and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic have concluded a pioneering pact under which both countries agree to protect and preserve historic sites, monuments and cemeteries representing each other's cultural heritage.

A protocol to this effect was signed by Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, Chairman of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, and Martin Stropnický, Director-General of the cultural policy section of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Under the agreement — the first signed by the US — a joint commission will be created by the two countries to help identify, protect and preserve historic sites and cultural properties.

Upon signing the protocol, Chairman Schneier noted that "on the eve of President Vaclav Havel's visit to the United States, this agreement is a valuable contribution to the strengthening of the traditional bonds of friendship between the Czechoslovak and American peoples."

The US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad was formed by act of Congress in 1985 to preserve and protect the monuments, historic buildings and cemeteries in foreign lands that are associated with the heritage of American citizens. Rabbi Schneier was sworn in as chairman of the Commission by Vice President Quayle last June.

Chairman of the US Heritage Preservation Commission Credits German State Official for Decision to Scrap Local Plan to Locate Supermarket Near Ravensbruck

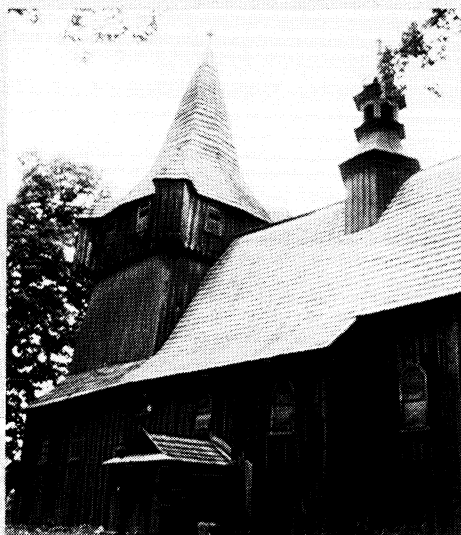
Potsdam (July 24, 1991) — The chairman of a United States commission for the preservation of historic sites abroad today credited the minister president of the federal state of Brandenburg for overruling local authorities who had approved the opening of a supermarket near the site of the Nazi concentration camp at

Ravensbruck in former East Germany.

Chairman Arthur Schneier, who met here with Manfred Stolpe, the minister president, reported that a meeting between Mr. Stolpe, the mayor of Fuestenberg — who initially had approved the supermarket proposal — and other interested parties led to the reconsideration of scrapping of the project.

When it was first disclosed that the Kaiser Supermarket Chain had received authorization to open a shopping center near the infamous concentration camp where more than 92,000 victims — mostly women and children — perished, angry protests in Germany and abroad broke out. Kaiser is a subsidiary of the Tempelmann Group, which owns the A&P chain in the US.

"I commend Mr. Stolpe for personally taking charge of reversing this shameful decision and for establishing a special commission to draw up



Wola Radziszowska, south of Krakow, Poland. Rare wooden 15th century church last restored 100 years ago

a comprehensive plan for the preservation of all memorial sites in the federal state of Brandenburg, and for issuing a directive prohibiting mayors from approving building permits near sites of former concentration camps," Rabbi Schneier, Chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad said. Following their meeting, Chairman Schneier, Senior Rabbi of Manhattan's Park East Synagogue and President of the ecumenical Appeal of Conscience Foundation, a group of business and religious leaders working to advance freedom for all religions throughout the world, wrote to Minister President Stolpe urging him to cancel the supermarket permit.

"The spirit of reconciliation should not be undermined by further trampling on the soil where man's inhumanity to man caused so much pain and suffering," the American spiritual

leader said in his letter. "Markets must not take the place of morality," he stated.

Chairman Schneier reported that during his meeting with the minister president, Mr. Stolpe backed the reestablishment of an organized Jewish community in Potsdam this September and voiced strong support for restitution for Nazi victims.

The United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad was created in 1985 to preserve and protect monuments, historic buildings and cemeteries in foreign lands that are associated with the foreign heritage of American citizens. Its primary functions are to identify and publish a list of endangered landmarks, to work with the Department of State in negotiating agreements with foreign government to protect landmarks.

First Agreement Agreement for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Properties Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Bearing in mind the respect due to fundamental human rights, and seeking to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups,

Desiring to enhance the protection of cultural properties and provide access to the treasures of national and world culture without discrimination,

Convinced that each culture has a dignity and a value which must be respected and preserved, and that all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all mankind,

Considering that deterioration or destruction of items of the cultural heritage constitutes an irreparable impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

Reaffirming their condemnation of genocide and their determination to take steps to frustrate the objectives of those who sought to eradicate and the culture and heritage of its victims,

Seeking to honor the memories of those victims and to promote knowledge of and respect for their culture and heritage,

Considering that the protection of cultural heritage can be effective only if organized both nationally and internationally among states working in close cooperation,

Desirous of elaborating concrete steps in furtherance of the principles and purposes of the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage with respect to certain items of the cultural heritage of the

victims of genocide during the Second World War, and

In accordance with the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in Cooperation in Culture, Education, Science and Technology and Other Fields signed in Prague on April 15, 1986, Have agreed as follows:

1. Each Party will take appropriate steps to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of all national, religious or ethnic groups (hereinafter referred to as "Groups") who reside or resided in its territory and were the victims of genocide in its territory during the Second World War. The term "cultural heritage" for the purposes of this Agreement means places of worship, sites of historical significance, monuments, cemeteries and memorials to the dead, as well as archival materials relating thereto.

2. The Parties shall cooperate in identifying lists of appropriate items falling within the scope of paragraph 1, particularly those which are in danger of deterioration or destruction. Such lists may be published jointly.

3. Each Party will ensure that there is no discrimination, in form or in fact, against the cultural heritage of any Groups or against the nationals of the other Party in the scope and application of its laws and regulations concerning:

(a) the protection and preservation of their cultural heritage;

(b) the right to contribute to the protection and preservation of their cultural heritage; and

(c) public access thereto.

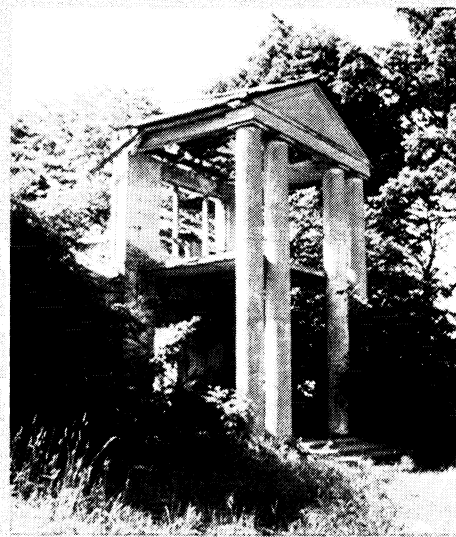
4. In cases where the authorities and organizations concerned state that the Groups are unable, on their own, to ensure adequate protection and preservation of their cultural heritage, each Party shall take special steps to ensure such protection and preservation within its territory and shall invite the cooperation of the other Party and its nationals where assistance is required for this purpose.

5. Properties referred to in paragraph 4 that are of special significance shall be designated in the list of properties annexed to this Agreement, publicly announced and communicated to appropriate local agencies. All properties so designated shall be protected, preserved, and marked with a special plaque. Access thereto shall be assured. The list of properties forms an integral part of this Agreement. Through the Commission referred to in paragraph 6 each Party may, at any time, make such changes in the list as it deems desirable or necessary on the condition that these changes be communicated through diplomatic channels.

6. (A) A Joint Cultural Heritage Commission is hereby established to oversee the operations of

the lists referred to in paragraphs 2 and 5, and to perform such other functions as are delegated to it by the Parties which will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels. Each Party shall appoint two members of the Commission, consisting of the Chairman plus another member, who may be assisted by alternates and advisers. Decisions of the Commission shall require the assent of both Parties. The Parties shall cooperate in supplying the Commission with access to properties and information necessary for the execution of its responsibilities.

(B) The Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the side of the United States of America. The authorities and organizations concerned, which are according to the valid laws and regulations of the Czech and Slovak Federal



Rochaliki, Poland
Ghostlike architecture invokes cultural heritage.

Republic responsible for the protection of cultural monuments in accordance with this Agreement, shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the side of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. Either Party by diplomatic note to the other may change its Executive Agent.

7. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to relieve either Party of its obligations under the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage or any other agreement for protection of cultural heritage.

8. This Agreement shall be subject to the laws and regulations of both countries and the availability of funds.

9. Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be submitted to the Agencies referred to in paragraph 6. (B).

10. This Agreement shall enter into force

upon signature and shall remain in force subject to termination upon one year's written notice by one Party to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Washington, in duplicate, this seventeenth day of March, 1992, in the English and Czech languages, each text being equally authentic.

**Legislative Mandate 99 STAT.280
Public Law 99-83—Aeg. 8, 1985
Creating The Commission...
an Agency of The US Government**

Title XIII—Miscellaneous Provisions
22 USC 2151-1 Sec. 1301. Effective Date
Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act shall take effect on October 1, 1985.

16 USC 469j, SEC. 1303.
COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
AMERICA'S HERITAGE ABROAD.

(a) Purpose.

Because the fabric of a society is strengthened by visible reminders of the historical roots of the society, it is in the national interest of the United States to encourage the preservation and protection of the cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings associated with the foreign heritage of United States citizens.

(b) Establishment.

There is established a commission to be known as the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Commission").

(c) Duties.

The Commission shall—

(1) identify and publish a list of those cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings located abroad which are associated with the foreign heritage of United States citizens from eastern and central Europe, particularly those cemeteries, monuments, and buildings which are in danger of deterioration or destruction;

(2) encourage the preservation and protection of such cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings by obtaining, in cooperation with the Department of State, assurances from foreign governments that the cemeteries, monuments, and buildings will be preserved and protected; and

(3) prepare and disseminate reports on the condition of and the progress toward preserving and protecting such cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings.

(d) Membership.

(1) the Commission shall consist of 21 members appointed by the President, 7 of whom shall be appointed after consultation with the

Speaker of the House of Representatives and 7 of whom shall be appointed after consultation with the President pro tempore of the Senate.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), members of the Commission shall be appointed for terms of 3 years.

(B) Of the members first appointed after consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 5 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years. Of the members first appointed after consultation with the President pro tempore of the Senate, 5 shall be appointed for 2 years.

(C) A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed.

(D) A member may retain membership on the Commission until the member's successor has been appointed.

(3) The President shall designate the Chairman of the Commission from among its members.

(e) Meetings.

The Commission shall meet at least once every three months.

(f) Compensation and Per Diem.

(1) Members of the Commission shall receive no pay on account of their service on the Commission.

(2) While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5 of the United States Code.

(g) Authorities.

(1) The Commission or any member it authorizes may, for the purposes of carrying out this section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, request such attendance, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission considers appropriate.

(2) The Commission may appoint such personnel (subject to the provisions of title 5 of the United States Code which govern appointments in the competitive service) and may fix the pay of such personnel (subject to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates) as the Commission deems desirable.

(3) The Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized by section 3109(b) of title 5 of the United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay then in effect for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5332(a)).

(4) Upon request of the Commission, the head of any Federal department or agency, including the Secretary of State, may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of such department or agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties under this section.

(5) The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States, including the Department of State, any information necessary to enable it to carry out this section. Upon the request of the Chairman of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(6) The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of money or property.

(7) The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner upon the same



Radnice, Czech Republic.
Crumbling church.

conditions as others departments and agencies of the United States.

(8) The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(h) Reports.

The Commission shall transmit an annual report to the President and to each House of Congress as soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year. Each report shall include a detailed statement of the activities and accomplishments of the Commission during the preceding fiscal year and any recommendations by the Commission for legislation and administrative actions.

**United States Commission
for the Preservation
of America's Heritage Abroad**

Membership

Honorable Arthur Schneier
Chairman
New York, NY

Honorable Julius Berman
Forest Hills, NY

Honorable Chaskel Besser
New York, NY

Honorable Hertz Frankel
Brooklyn, NY

Honorable Abraham Friedlander
Brooklyn, NY

Honorable Edgar Gluck
Brooklyn, NY

Honorable Levi Golberger
Brooklyn, NY

Honorable Joseph Halfon
Spring Valley, NY

Honorable Eugene Huppin
Spokane, WA

Honorable Ron C. Kaufman
Springfield, VA

Honorable Leslie Keller
Forest Hills, NY

Honorable Zvi Kestenbaum
Brooklyn, NY

Honorable Gary J. Lavine
Fayetteville, NY

Honorable Warren Miller
Washington, DC

Honorable Stan Rose
Overland Park, KS

Honorable Israel Rubin
Potomac, MD

Honorable Asher J. Scharf
Brooklyn, NY

Honorable Morris Shmidman
Kew Gardens, NY

Honorable Edward Howell Sims
Sarasota, FL

Honorable Sigmund Strochlitz
New London, CT

Honorable Dov S. Zakheim
Silver Spring, MD

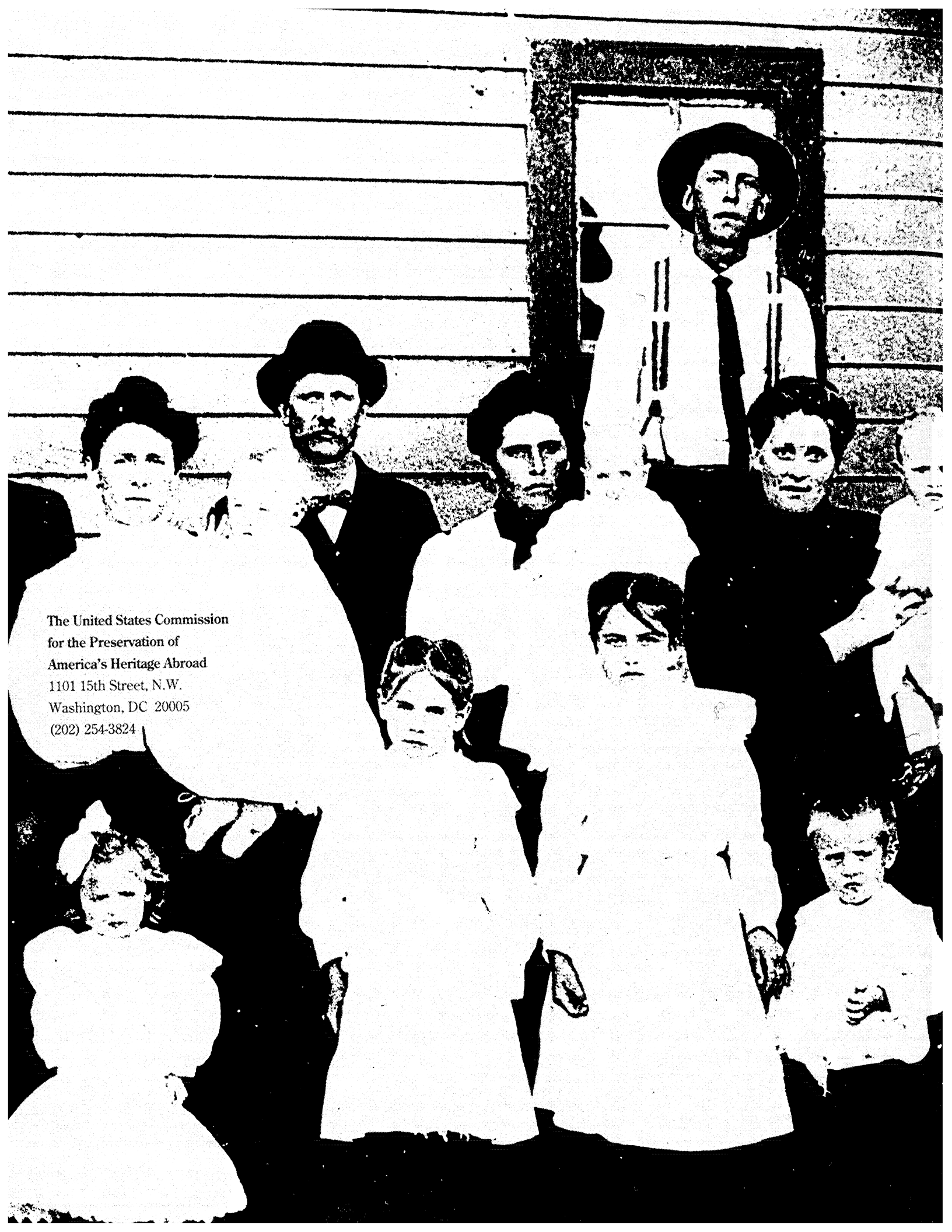
Associates

William F. McSweeney
President
Associates of the United States
Commission for the Preservation of
America's Heritage Abroad

Staff

Joel Barries
Executive Director

Donald E. DeHaven
Deputy Executive Director



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